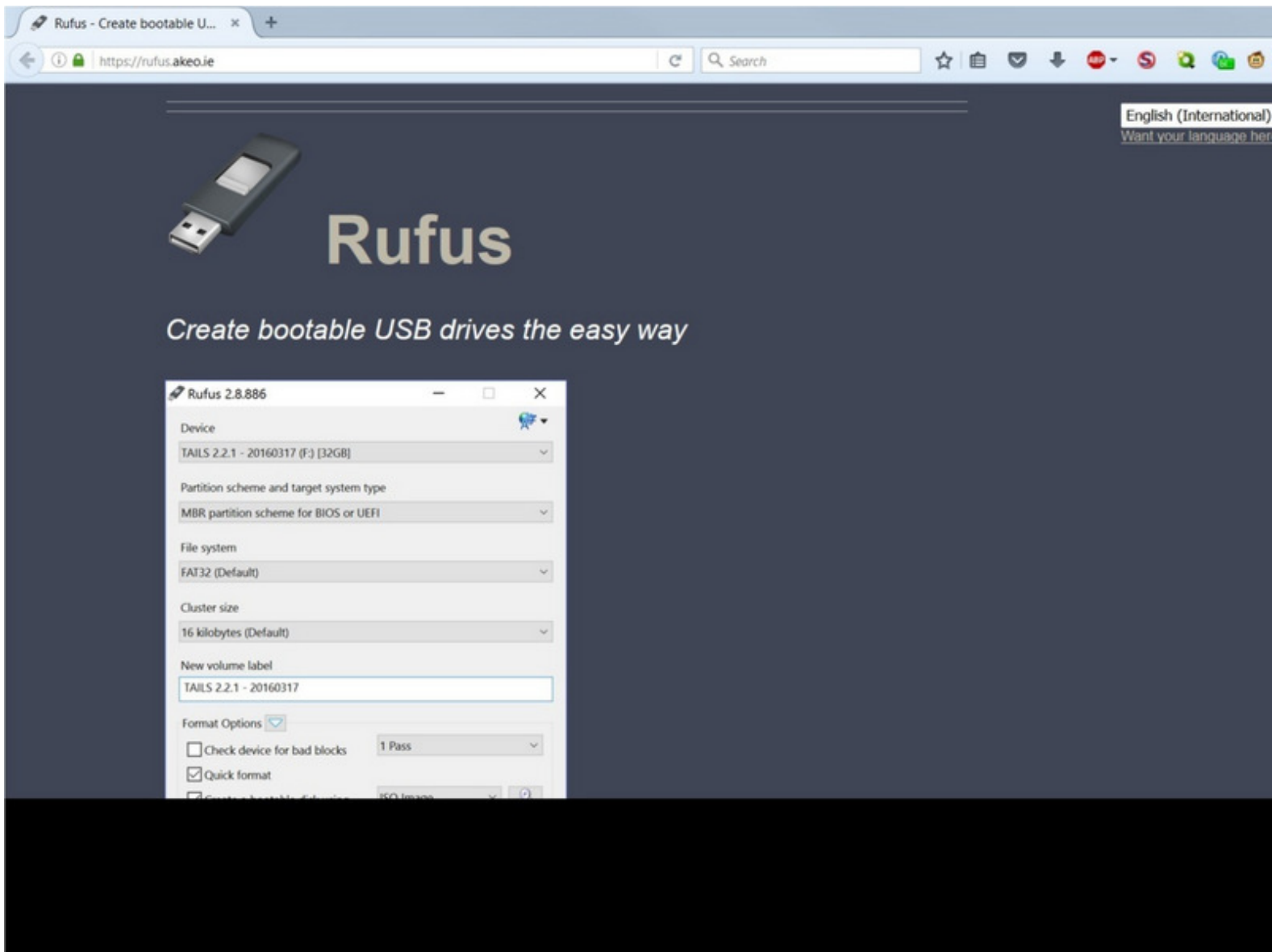




# Linux Install Media Creation (USB)

Making a USB boot drive to boot Linux.

Written By: Nick



## INTRODUCTION

**Distros this works with: Universal**

**What this guide accomplishes: Making a USB drive bootable to install Linux.**

[Legacy DVD burning guide \(Note: OUDATED\)](#)

### **Important guide notes:**

- This guide favors NEW USB drives due to how cheap small capacity drives are. If you want to reuse an old drive, then those will also work.
- I have removed all information from this guide that targets DVD burning. Many new laptops (and some desktops) no longer include optical drives.
- In a lot of cases, the optical drives that come with used equipment is likely already broken in some way. It isn't uncommon for the previous owner to neglect a failed optical drive. In regards to laptops this is even more common then it is on desktops.
- In the case of a USB drive, they can be reformatted and reused multiple times before the flash memory wears out. DVD media is typically single use.

### **IF YOUR SYSTEM HAS TROUBLE BOOTING FROM USB DIRECTLY:**

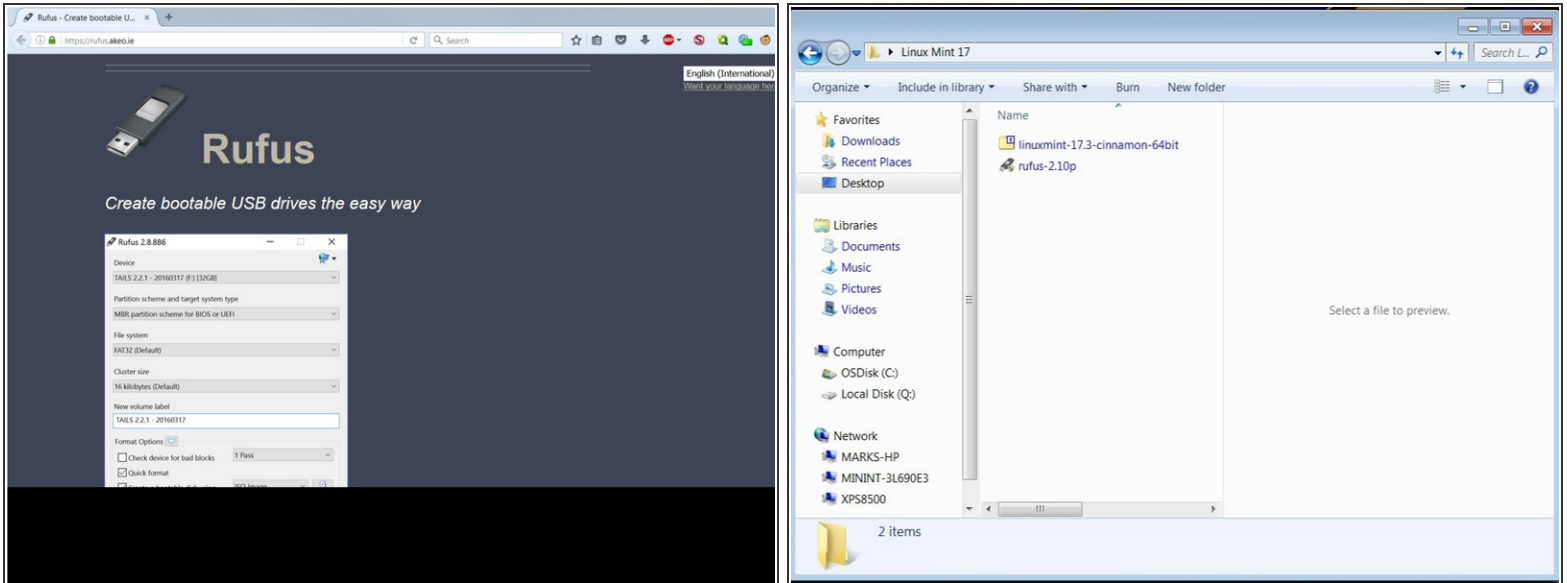
**Note:** This problem typically only comes up for users with very old hardware (or systems with buggy USB boot implementations). It does NOT affect the majority of readers.


If your system that has trouble booting from USB media directly, a CD boot ma manager can be used as a workaround. These guides cover how to use the boot manager option:

[PlopKExec](#)

[Plop Boot Manager](#)

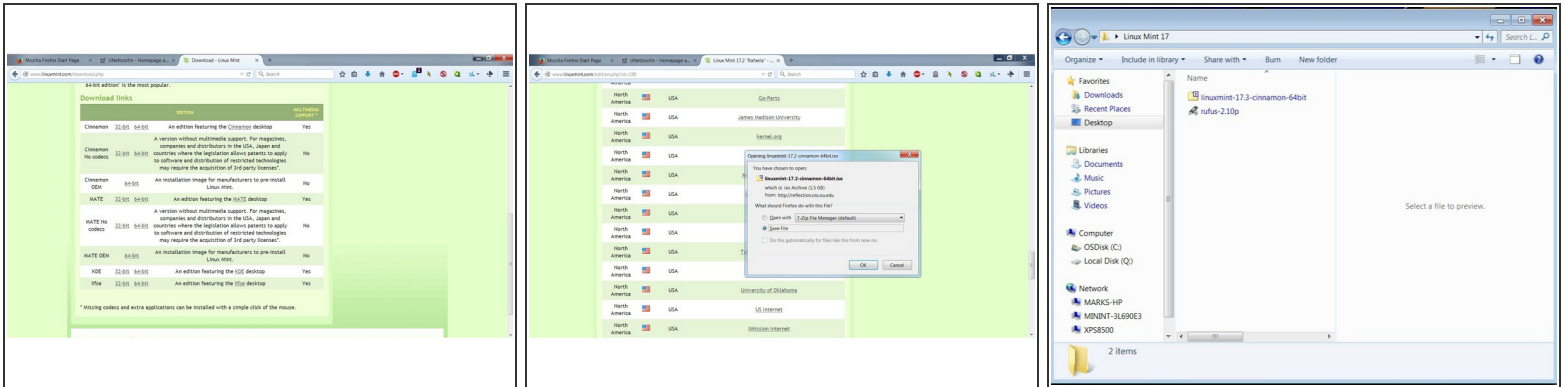
## Step 1 — ISO writing application acquisition



 This guide was written with the intention of purchasing a new USB drive just for this project. Used drives work, but should be formatted before writing the ISO to the drive.

- Get a **8-16GB** flash drive. While an 8GB drive is more than you need, it is becoming common for 16GB drives to be just as cheap. These drives also allow you to store more files that may be unique to an individual system or hardware fleet. **Note:** While an 8-16GB drive is recommended, a 4GB drive can be used if you only copy the OS.
- To write the ISO to the drive, download [Rufus](https://rufus.akeo.ie). Put this program somewhere where you can easily find it for later.

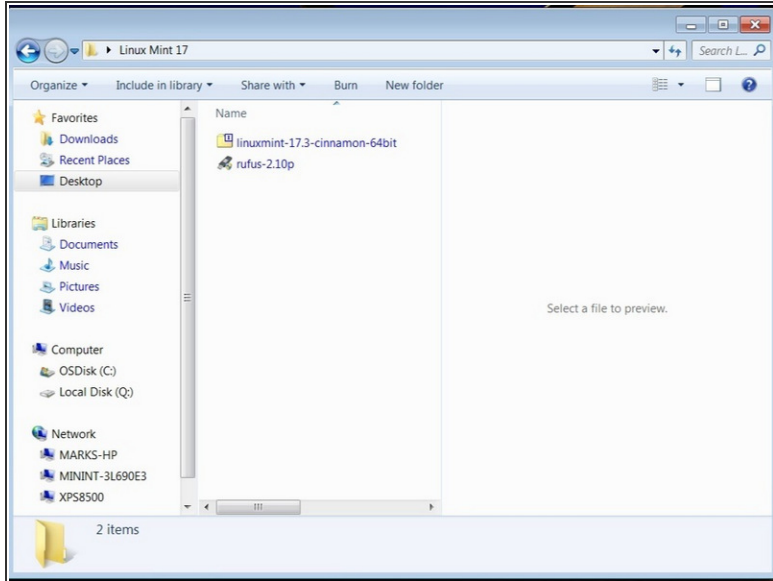
## Step 2 — Getting the Linux distro



For the first time user, FTP is the safest option. Torrents are not recommended because advanced configuration is strongly advised. While the changes are obvious, most users are not equipped to make these changes.

- Once Rufus is downloaded, download the Linux distro you prefer. You can do this using the FTP link (slowest) or a torrent (fastest).

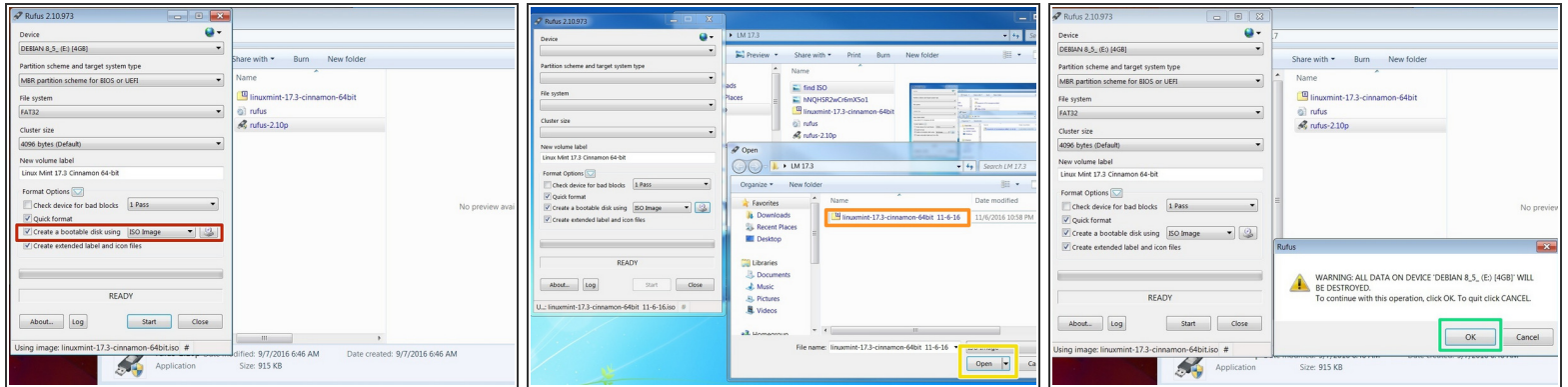
## Step 3 — Locate the ISO



 If you have to move the files to another location, you will need to find the files yourself.

- After you have the ISO downloaded, find out where it is located. The default download location depends on what OS you are running (and your download settings), but typical locations are **Documents and Downloads (WinXP)** or **Downloads (7/8.x/10)**.
- Plug your USB drive in now, so it is detected for later.

## Step 4 — Writing to the USB drive



**⚠ Users who have trouble booting from USB directly:** If your system is older and lacks the option to USB boot or has problems doing so, refer to [this guide](#) for additional tools to facilitate USB booting. **Note:** Most users will not need to do this. This only applies to select users since most systems boot from USB correctly.

**📁** Rufus will ask you if you want to write the ISO in ISO or DD mode. The mode you select is up to you, but when in doubt it is best to use what Rufus recommends. **Optional:** If you are using an older USB drive, run a block test. Most old drives are probably fine, but this will detect any serious problems.

- Find Rufus and open it. Once Rufus is open, find the ISO of the Linux distro you downloaded. Click on the image that looks like a CD to locate the ISO.
- Once you find the ISO, click it and then click **Open**. After you click this, the ISO will be selected and is now available to write to your USB drive. **Note:** If **ISO image** is not automatically selected, click on the drop-down menu to select it manually.
- **WARNING! If you have any files you want to keep, back them up BEFORE writing the image to the USB drive.** Once you locate the ISO to write to the drive, select **Start**. The program will warn you this will erase the drive. Confirm this by clicking **OK** and the process will begin.

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